



Sahuaro Girl Scout Council, Inc.
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September 5, 2002

Congressman Jim Kolbe
2266 Rayburn House Office Bldg.
Washington, DC 20515-0306

Dear Congressman Kolbe:

As the Executive Director of Sahuaro Girl Scout Council, I am pleased to write this letter of support for the National Forest Organizational Camp Fee Improvement Act, HR5316. This legislation will reform and improve the fees being paid to the US Forest Service by our organization. A new fee structure is needed because the current law requires fees to be based on land appraisals that have dramatically increased the costs to our camps and threatens to price the children we serve off Forest Service lands.

As it is, with the existing fee structure and our operating expenses for a mountain camp experience, we scholarship approximately \$20,000 yearly for young women in socio-economic need to avail themselves of a camping adventure. The fee structure proposed by the Forest Service would be prohibitive in addition to our current commitment to the disadvantaged. Together we must establish a new fee system that would allow these children to remain on forest lands. The National Forest Organizational Camp Fee Improvement Act accomplishes this objective. Further, the bill appropriately provides incentives to efficiently use public lands and maximize the number of children at risk who attend our camp.

This change in the law is urgently needed this year in order for our camp to effectively offer activities to children in the community next year. I am extremely pleased to provide you with our support and assistance to enact into law the National Forest Organizational Camp Fee Improvement Act this year. Our federal lands are an important resource for our nation. We need to ensure that priority is given to children learning in, playing in, and enjoying these areas so that they will grow up appreciating the outdoors. Together we need to ensure that their childhood is filled with positive experiences.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gail H. Gurney". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Gail H. Gurney
Executive Director



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